Jobs, Education, & Training (JET)

Prepared by the Department of Human Services

for presentation to the
House Appropriations Subcommittee for the
Department of Human Services

July 31, 2007

JET: Helping Low Income Families Attain Self-Sufficiency

- One million Michigan residents live in poverty.
- 239,778 receive cash assistance (88,472 families).
- 50,367 have been on cash assistance for four years or longer (13,356 families with 36,831 children).
- Current cash grant is \$489 for a family of three.

JET Overview

- Jobs, Education and Training (JET) was created as an alternative to current Work First by Workforce Action Network (WAN).
- Provides for:
 - Strong local planning with community partners.
 - Enhanced partnership with MWA and MRS.
 - Better client assessments.
 - Emphasis on barrier removal and skill-building.

JET Overview

- Short-term Family Support (Diversion) option for suitable families.
- Single individualized case plan (FSSP) for all adults receiving FIP.
- Review of clients deferred due to incapacity.
- Longer/stronger post-employment support.
- Planning for advancement/wage progression.
- Stronger sanctions and process.

JET Overview

- JET has expanded from four sites serving 10% of the FIP population to 29 sites serving 50%. Local plans are in place in all sites.
- Measures show improved performance in the JET sites.
- Funding for FY 06 and FY 07 is in place.
- Funding for FY 08 statewide expansion is included in the budget bills being considered subject to final release by SBO.
- Implementation of JET in remainder of state planned for October 1, 2007.

2006 JET pilot sites

The following sites began in April 2006:

- Kent County
- Sanilac County
- Oakland County (Madison Heights)
- Wayne County (Glendale/Trumbull)

(Serve 10% of TANF population)

2007 JET Sites

These sites began in January 2007

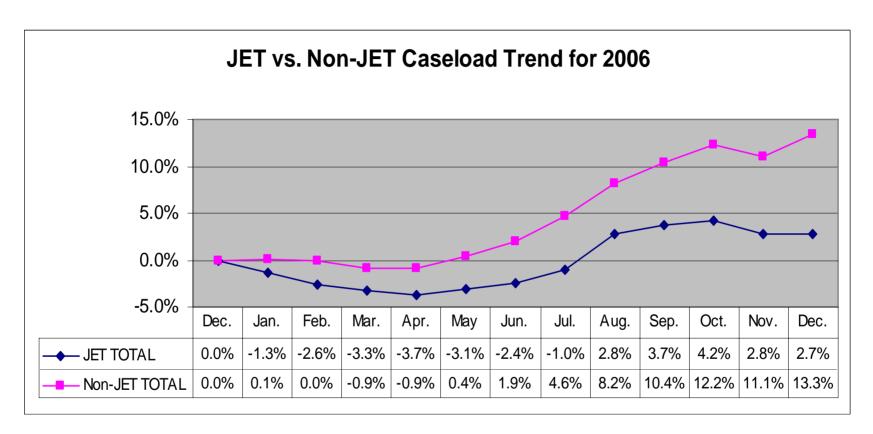
- Antrim
- Benzie
- Berrien
- Clinton
- Eaton
- Genesee (All districts)
- Grand Traverse
- Ingham
- Kalkaska
- Macomb (All districts)
 (Serve 50% of TANF population

- Manistee
- Muskegon
- Oakland Walled Lake
- Oakland Pontiac
- Saginaw
- Washtenaw
- Wayne Medbury
- Wayne Forest/Ellery
- Wayne Gratiot/7 Mile
- Wayne Hamtramck combined with the original sites.)

FIP Policy Changes

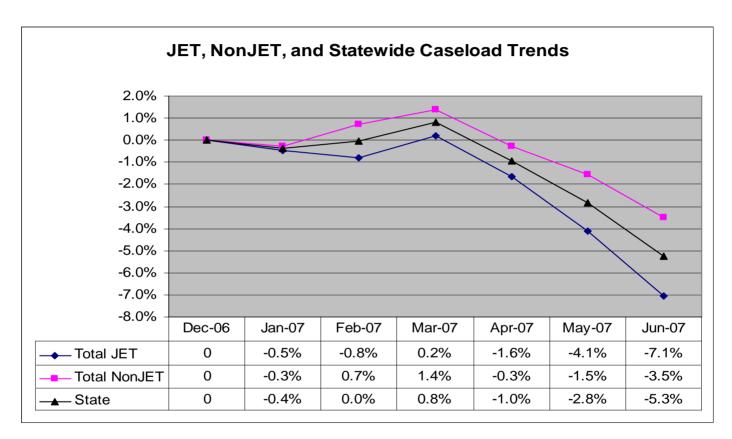
- Policy changes made in 2007 support increased engagement, participation, and accountability.
 - 3 stage sanctions effective 4/1/07
 - 3 months first instance.
 - 3 months second instance.
 - 12 months third and subsequent instances.
 - Policy requiring that clients with a work requirement attend Work First/JET before case opening effective May 2007.

JET/Non-JET FIP Caseloads



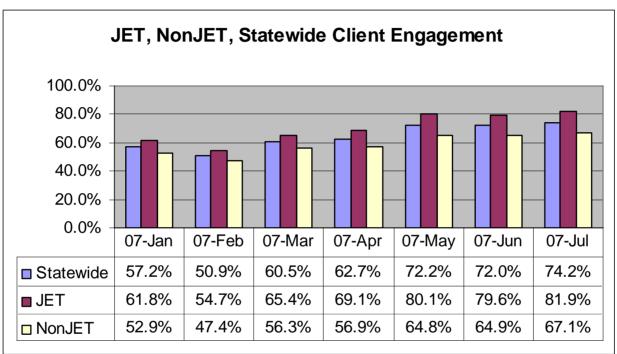
- Michigan's FIP caseload grew by 12.2% in 2006.
- Caseload growth in Non-JET sites was 13.3%.
- JET caseloads grew at 1/5 of the non-JET rate 2.7%.

JET/Non-JET FIP Caseloads



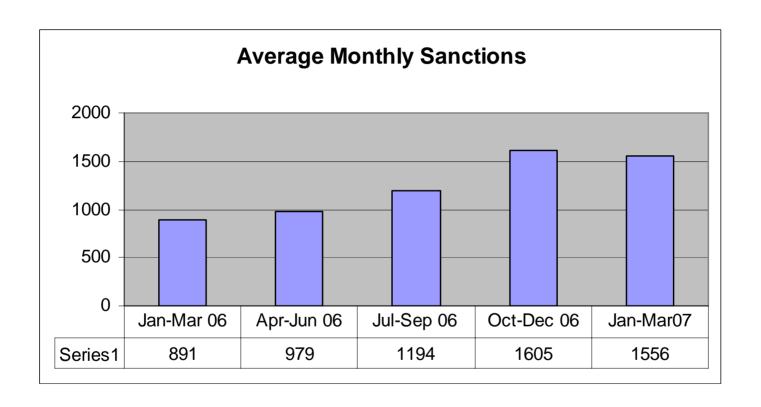
- The statewide average number of FIP cases dropped by 5.3% from January - June 2007.
- JET county caseloads experienced twice the decrease of non-JET sites (Down 7.1% vs. 3.5%).

Engaging the FIP Client



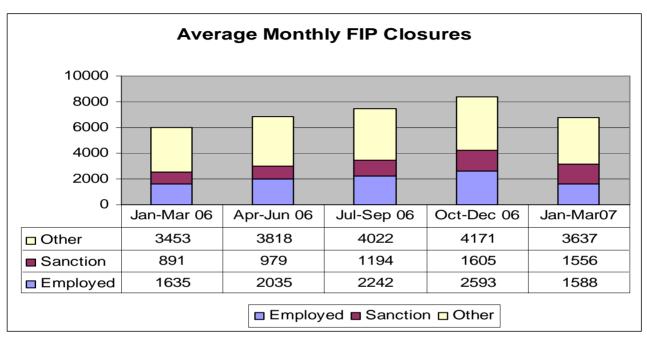
- Assuring that clients with a work requirement are engaged and active with Work First/JET is essential to meeting work participation and client self-sufficiency goals.
- Caseloads of FIS assigned to provide case management to FIP clients were reduced.
- JET was also designed to increase engagement and was expanded to serve 50% of FIP families in January 2007.
- Engagement trend is up statewide and even more in JET sites:
 - Up 17% Statewide
 - Up 20% in JET sites

Noncompliance Follow-up



- March 2006 First Engagement Reports provided to field staff.
- April 2006 JET began in four sites (10% of FIP population).
- June 2006 Began policy of referring to Work First after case opening.
- January 2007 JET expanded to 29 sites (50% of FIP population).

FIP Closure Trends



- We have reduced caseloads for FIS working with FIP cases
- JET expansion, has increased the amount of time for FIP case management activities.
 - This means more planning and follow-up to assure that plans are being followed.
 - We get more closures either due to success of the plans or failure of the client to work on the plan. Either one can result in closure.
- We opened cases between June 06 and April 07 that would not have opened under previous (or current) policy.
 - Some cases denied previously had to be closed to sanction, when they did not comply.
 - This artificially raised the level of the sanctioning.
 - This artificial raise should disappear in the next few months, since we reversed the policy.
 - However, the sanction level will likely remain somewhat higher than in the past due to the increased case 13 management activity and better case management tools

Serving Person with Disabilities

- Before JET, clients who claimed disability were exempted from Work First, if they applied for SSI.
- The SSI application and appeal process often takes months or even years.
- We have added SSI advocacy services in DHS to help both SDA and FIP clients move as quickly as possible through that process.
- We are also working on arrangements with LSAM to help with the appeal work often needed.
- The objective of this work, however, is limited to successfully navigating the SSI application process.

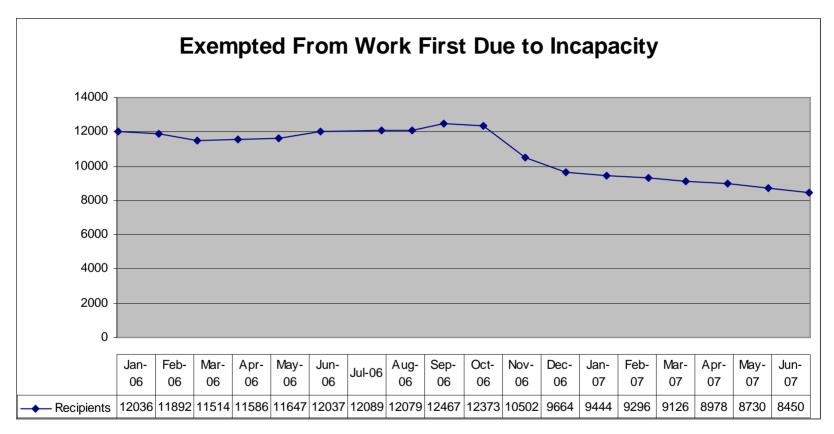
Serving Person with Disabilities

- JET adds a structured process for offering and engaging clients with disabilities in vocational services.
- Through a partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, JET clients claiming disability are referred to MRS for consultation services.
 - Consultation involves a face-to-face interview with the client and review of available medical information.
 - MRS reviews services and supports that are available and attempts to engage clients in these services.
 - Those who do not qualify or are unwilling to engage in vocational rehabilitation services are referred back to DHS for:
 - SSI advocacy help.
 - Referral to JET/Work First.
 - Referral to the Disability Determination Service Medical Review Team (when ability to participate in work activities remains in dispute).

Serving Person with Disabilities

- This process started in the original four JET sites in 2006 and was expanded to all 29 current JET sites in January 2007.
 - 1,608 JET clients have been referred for consultations through 7/18/07.
 - 1,072 consultations have been completed.
 - 544 FIP clients (414 of the consultation clients and 130 others) have been opened by MRS for vocational rehabilitation services.
 - 43 have been referred for other vocational services.
 - 368 did not show and have been or are being followed up regarding non-compliance/sanction.
 - The remainder have been returned to DHS for referral to JET/Work First, SSI advocacy, or MRT determination.
- An additional 142 FIP clients have been referred and opened for MRS services by non-JET sites.

FIP "IN" Exemption Trend



- This process has begun to have significant impact on the number of FIP clients exempted due to incapacity (IN).
- There has been a 32% decrease in clients exempted for this reason since the JET/MRS process began.

JET Outcomes

OUTCOME	CURRENT STATUS
Reduce average monthly FIP caseload for FY 2007 to 88,300.	YTD average FY07 caseload is 87,690.
	 Statewide FIP caseload for June 2007 is 84,122.
	• Statewide caseload declined by 5.3% since June 2007.
	 The decline in the JET sites was 7.1% - more than double the rate of decline in the non-JET sites (3.5%).

JET Outcomes

OUTCOME	CURRENT STATUS
At least 9% of JET participants will participate	 Monitoring report is being developed.
in education or training.	 Preliminary data for the original four sites - participants enrolled in education and training increased from 70 in April 2006 to 890 in March 2007.

JET Outcomes

OUTCOME	CURRENT STATUS
Increase federal work participation	Adjusted target rate for FY2007 is 27.7%.
	 Preliminary data for year-to-date rate thru February 2007 is 23.6%, JET sites 25.7%.
	 Projected rate at September 30, 2007 is 50%.
75% of the cases that close will not return to FIP for one year after closure	 Prior to JET, 50% returned within one year of FIP closure. JET data not yet available.

Accomplishments

- Improvements made
 - Local pilot plans developed jointly with community partners.
 - Stronger sanctions (90 days) and triage.
 - Improved screening/assessments (FAST).
 - Individually tailored service plans (FSSP).
 - Enhanced partnerships with MWA, MRS, community/ clients.

Accomplishments

- Wider range of services/activities available.
- Customer service improvements:
 - STFS (Diversion) option provided.
 - More involvement in case planning.
- Fairer sanction process.